

DETACHMENT 3  
24th Weather Squadron  
Nellis Air Force Base  
Las Vegas, Nevada

22 November 1955

SUBJECT: Weather for Aircraft Accident

TO: Director  
Flying Safety Research  
Norton Air Force Base  
San Bernadino, Calif.

1. The synoptic situation on 17 November 1955 at the approximate time of the subject accident was as follows:

- a. The surface chart showed an occluded front extending south-westward out of a low centered over Nellis AFB, Nevada. This frontal system joined a cold front which extended westward into the Pacific and then into a deep low in the Gulf of Alaska. With this frontal system there was an extended weather pattern with considerable snow to the North.
- b. The 500 mb. pattern showed a deep trough to the west of the station, associated with the low cell and frontal system.

2. The weather observations from Nellis AFB, McCarran Field, Nev., Tonopah, Nev. and Daggett, Calif. are included as an inclosure.

3. The upper winds for this immediate area are included as an inclosure.

4. From personal observation throughout the day, and in particular from 0700P to 1100P the clouds were topping Charleston Peak all during this period. Snow showers were observed intermittently in the immediate area of the crash site. These observations may be evaluated by my experience level. I have been flying for thirteen years. I have been forecasting for six years, and have a Masters' Degree in Meteorology. In my opinion any aircraft flying from 9000 to 13000 MSL in the vicinity of Charleston Peak, would have been in snow showers and clouds during this period.

2 Incl  
1 Sfc Chart (copy)  
1 Wea Observations

s/t

WILLIAM L. DOTSON  
Major, USAF  
Detachment Commander

*Certified true copy*  
*Nathan H. Heathouse*  
*Major USAF*

C O P Y